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A N N U A L R E P O R T

FOR THE YEAR 1937

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(L.GIBSON, M.B.,D.P.H)

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

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The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Beccles.

Sir and Gentlemen,
I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1937.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	2017
Registrar General's estimate of the population mid 1937	6426
Number of inhabitated houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books ...	2083
Rateable Value	£34729
Penny Rate : estimated net produce ...	£131

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The chief industries carried on in the Borough are printing and bookbinding, engineering, malting and flour milling.

The employment in these industries has no particular influence on Public Health.

VITAL STATISTICS

		Total	Males	Females	
Live Births	Legitimate	82	39	43	Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population - 13.54
	Illegitimate	5	3	2	
Still Births		1	0	1	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still births) - 11.36
Deaths		111	57	54	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population - 17.27

Deaths from Puerperal causes ... Nil

	Males	Females	Total
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age	1	1	2

Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	22.99
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	24.39
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	24
" " Measles(all ages)	0
" " Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	0
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

Year	Comparison of 1937 with previous years 1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	Rate for England & Wales 1937
Population. Census							
Estimated	6773	6735	6690	6590	6524	6426	
Births	84	78	89	93	80	87	
Birth rate per 1,000	12.4	11.6	13.3	14.1	12.26	13.54	14.9
Deaths	92	89	84	89	88	111	
Death rate per 1,000	13.6	13.2	12.6	13.5	13.49	17.27	
Death rate with comparability factor	10.7	10.4	9.9	10.7	10.66	13.64	12.4
Standardised Death rate	8.8	8.5	8.2	8.7	8.74	11.18	
Infants Deaths	6	2	8	2	1	2	
Infantile Mortality rate	71.4	25.6	89.9	21.5	12.5	22.99	58
Cancer Death rate		1.781	0.897	1.364	1.84	3.73	
Respiratory Tuberculosis Death rate		0.891	0.598	0.303	Nil	0.934	

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health : Dr. L.Gibson M.B., D.P.H.
Sanitary Inspector : Mr C.L.Hamby, M.I.M.C.E.
Meat Inspector : Mr J.C.Taylor M.R.C.V.S.

They are part time Officials of the Council in their capacity as Public Health Officers. The County Council contributes one moiety of the Officers salary.

HOSPITAL AND NURSING FACILITIES

The Beccles and District War Memorial Hospital provides accommodation for twenty two patients and is equipped with an up-to-date X.-ray apparatus, for diagnosis and treatment and an Arc Lamp for artificial Sunlight Treatment

A supply of Diptheria Antitoxin is kept at the Hospital where it is available for practi tioners requiring the same for curative and prophylactic purposes. It was only used on one occasion, 16,000 units being expended.

Nursing is provided by the Beccles Nursing Association which is under the control of a voluntary Committee. The Staff consists of a Sister and two Nurses all of whom hold the C.M.B. Certificate. The Nurses work under the direction of the Medical Practitioners in the Borough.

The Town Council undertake to pay all the maintenance charges in the Beccles Hospital ofxcases of Enteric Fever sent there on the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health, and have also authorised the Medical Officer of Health to recommend and arrange for institutional treatment of other infectious diseases where isolation cannot be carried out at home.

The East Suffolk County Council provide treatment or Hospital accommodation when not otherwise provided, in cases of (1) Tuberculosis both Pulmonary and Non-pulmonary, at Normanston and Ipswich Sanatoria for Pulmonary cases and Lowestoft Hospital for Non-Pulmonary cases (2) Venereal Disease at Lowestoft Hospital on Tuesdays and Fridays (3) Puerperal Fever and Pueperal Pyrexia at Lowestoft Isolation Hospital.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

During the year 1927 there was formed in the Borough a Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. It consists of the following:-

Men's Section - 24.
Nursing Division - 2 Officers, 14 Nursing Sisters and 2 probationers
Girl Cadets and Boy Cadets.
Caxton Section - 15 men.

The Division is qualified and prepared to undertake the voluntary duties, following:- Removals of Patients to Hospital, Render First Aid in cases of accident and attend public functions when their services may be needed. There is also a Blood Transfusion Service with 15 on the roll.

The Beccles Division of the Brigade is provided with a Motor Ambulance (renewed in April 1935) which is stationed in the Borough and is available for the District comprising Beccles, Loddon and all the neighbouring village During the year the ambulance had 283 calls and travelled 6107 miles involving 449 hours of duty for Nursing Sisters and 377 hours for men. Subscriptions amounting to £97 : 8 : -d were collected from 1948 contributors.

A course of Air Raid Precautions Lectures have been given by Miss Hossack who is a qualified lecturer.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

The Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic continues to progress satisfactorily. The centre was opened every Tuesday afternoon at the Red Triangle Hut under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health or the Assistant County Medical Officer assisted by the Nurses from the Nurses Home.

The following are comparative figures:-

Averages-	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
weekly attendance	48	46	38	32	40	48	37	33	27	21	31	31
New cases during year	68	51	66	65	72	58	64	43	41	29	41	66

The Centre was opened on 52 occasions, a doctor attended on 46 occasions and there were 805 consultations giving an average of 17.5 per session.

There were 48 children under 1 year of age who attended and they put in 646 attendances. There were 95 children between 1 and 5 years of age who attended and put in 980 attendances.

7 expectant mothers also attended and put in 22 attendances.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN AREA

Property in the Borough is inspected by the Sanitary Inspector or myself from time to time.

These investigations resulted in the service of 47informal notices.

WATER SUPPLY

The Water Supply is in the hands of the Beccles Waterworks Company whose works are in Pudding.Moor. The supply is obtained from five boreholes (6 inches diameter) sunk in the vicinity of the pumping station and lined with iron pipes. Four of these boreholes are in use and draw water from depths between 185 and 250 feet. All draw water from the chalk which is reached 60 feet down. The water rises in the bores to within 24 feet of the ground level. All are adequately protected from surface contamination

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being continuous iron pipes. The water is aerated and pumped through Candy Filters, to remove any iron in solution, then pumped through a service pipe to three covered storage tanks at the top of Ringsfield Road. During the day consumers draw water from this service pipe, surplus water going to the storage tanks. When the pumps are stopped water goes from the storage tanks into the mains. The storage tanks have a capacity of 268,000 gallons.

A water Tower holding 5000 gallons is filled by a pump from the service pipe and supplies the houses in the higher parts of the Grange Estate.

2138 premises are supplied by the Company, deducting 45 places of business leaves 2093 houses supplied. A new 10 inch main has been laid in St. Mary's Road.

A recent analysis gave the following results:-

	Parts per 100,000
Total solids in solution	69.0
Free and Saline Ammonia	.001
Albuminoid Ammonia	.001
Chlorine in Chlorides	16.6
Nitrogen as Nitrates	Nil
Nitrites	Nil
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F	.019
Hardness-total	36.9
" permanent	14.4
Bacteria on agar 48 hours at 37°C	None
B Coli absent in 100cc.	

Opinion:- This water is of great organic and bacteriological purity, free from all traces of pollution, and quite fit for drinking purposes.

FOOD

The County Council is the Authority responsible for the administration of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

The Chief Constable arranges for samples to be taken periodically and also by arrangement in special cases.

Under the arrangement made in 1930 the Council's health Officers have taken samples of milk on behalf of the County Council for biological examination for Tubercle Bacilli. Two samples so taken were reported as free

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS

On the Regisiter at the end of the year there were 10 producers and 7 retailers. Three producers have a licence for Milk produced from Accredited Herds. One retailer sells pasteurised milk. No action has been necessary under Sec. 4 Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act 1915.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are 10 Slaughterhouses onthe registerand 22 licences to slaughter were in force. Humane killers are in general use.

MEAT INSPECTION

Under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924, 169 visits to Slaughter houses have been made and 776 carcasss inspected.

	Carcases inspected and condemned				
	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1142	25	330	1405	2255
Number inspected	229	5	26	184	332
All Diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned	1	1	1	0	1
Carcases part condemned	2	3	0	0	2
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	1.3%	80% (4)	3.8%	0	0.9%

Tuberculosis only

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Whole carcases condemned	0	1	0	0	0
Carcases part condemned	1	0	0	0	0
Percentages of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0.44%	20%	0	0	0

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The River Waveney has shown no signs of pollution during the year When weed cutting is in progress a certain amount of mud is stirred up but this is unavoidable.

The Bathing Pool is supplied by river water. Nine samples were taken from the river, above and below the Bathing Pool, both at high water and at low water. They showed there were fewer bacteria in the Bathing Pool at low water, but in the river both above and below there were fewer at high water,

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The Town is drained on the separate system i.e. Storm Water is drained to the river and sewage to the Sewage Pumping Station, where it is received treated with lime and then taken to settling tanks. The system proved efficient and no complaints have been received. The sewer was extended to drain the houses on the Lowestoft Road between Hipperson's Garage and the Spinney.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The number of privys and earth closets in the town is very small. A number of houses share water closets which is a bad arrangement and steps are being taken to reduce the number.

SCAVENGING

Galvanised Iron Dustbins are in general use throughout the town. The majority are emptied weekly. A fortnightly collection is sufficient for the outlying houses.

The method of cleansing earth closets, privys ashpits and cesspools in the town has not caused any complaints. There are 45 houses where the night soil is removed by the Scavengers and they empty 3 cesspools.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

No action has been taken with a view to smoke abatement, there being no cause for complaint.

BED BUGS

No cases have been discovered or reported.

SCHOOLS

The sanitary conditions are satisfactory and the water supply is from the public supply. No action has been necessary in schools to prevent the spread of infectious disease apart from routine exclusion. Chicken pox was prevalent in February, March and April, and Whooping Cough in October November and December.

MORTUARY ACCOMMODATION

The Mortuary provided by a local undertaker is available when required

RAG FLOCK ACTS 1911 and 1928

There are no premises in the Borough where Rag Flock is manufactured.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS ACT 1925

No action has been necessary under these Regulations as no Tubercular person is employed in the milk trade.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1925 Sect.62

It has not been found necessary to take any action under this section.

HOUSING

Under the Housing Act 1924, 64 houses have been erected by the Council rehousing 366 persons.

Under the Housing Act 1930 at the end of the year 1937, 60 properties were considered fit for demolition, 9 properties were subject to Demolition Orders suspended during the life of the tenant or owner. Two closing orders were made and in 23 cases the owner gave an undertaking to recondition the houses. So far 42 houses have been demolished, 2 Closing Orders were carried out and 23 houses reconditioned.

6 Clearance Orders consisting of 27 houses with 87 persons were the subject of an Inquiry by an Inspector from the Ministry of Health in 1936 At the end of the year 11 were demolished and 2 repaired.

REHOUSING

In 1936, 46 houses were completed and in September 1937 26 houses were completed, consisting of 10 Two bedroomed houses, 8 Three bedroomed houses and 8 Four bedroomed houses. These last are capable of housing 7 persons, the floor space of the bedrooms being 150, 120, 104 and 81 square feet respectively.

On March 23rd an Inspector from the Ministry of Health held an Inquiry on the appeal of a builder who wished to erect 20 Bungalows on London Road The appeal was dismissed.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR 1937

1. Inspection of dwelling Houses during the year

(1)(a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	94
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	156
(2)(a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1)above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	22
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	35
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	2
(4) Number of dwelling houses (excluding those referred to under the previous subheading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	58

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit for habitation in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	63

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year

(a) Proceedings under sections 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936	
1. Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices - by owners	7
by Local Authority in default of owners	0
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	0
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices (a) by owners	0
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners	0
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936.	
1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	4
2. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	27

4. Housing Act 1936 - Part IV Overcrowding

(a)(1)	Number of Dwellings overcrowded at end of year	3
(2)	Number of Families dwelling therein	4
(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	18
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year	2
(c)(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	40
(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	279
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowded	None
(e)	Any other particulars	

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

Premises	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories	20	0	0
Workshops	42	5	0

On the Register there are 19 Factories and 47 Workshops

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

	Cases notified	Ages	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Smallpox	0		0	0
Scarlet Fever	3	17 11 & 7	3	0
Diphtheria	0		0	0
Enteric Fever	0		0	0
Puerperal Fever	0		0	0
Erysipelas	0		0	0
Pneumonia	1	47	0	5
Polioencephalitis	1		0	1

Ages of Cancer Deaths

Males 40, 53, 58, 65, 65, 68, 72, 75, 77, 79

Females 31, 51, 52, 61, 65, 66, 67, 70, 71, 76, 77, 78, 82.

TUBERCULOSIS

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
Periods	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1 to 5 years	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
5-15 years	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
15-25 years	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
25-35 years	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
35-45 years	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
45-55 years	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0
55-65 years	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
65 years and upwards	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

On the Register at the beginning of the year there were 24 respiratory (13 males and 11 females) and 9 non respiratory cases (2 males and 7 females During the year 9 respiratory (4 males and 5 females) and 2 non-respiratory cases (1 male and 1 female) were added (including 3 notified otherwise than by notification)

During the year 7 died (6 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory), 2 were cured (1 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory) and 1 removed(non-respiratory) leaving at the end of the year 26 respiratory (14 males and 12 females) and 8 non-respiratory (1 male and 7 females)

6 respiratory cases received Sanatorium treatment and 1 non-respiratory case received Hospital treatment.

I wish to tender to the Sanitary Inspector and other Borough Officials my best thanks for their kind assistance during the year.

I am, Sir and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

LAURENCE GIBSON,

Medical Officer of Health.